



# I MHG NEWSLETTER

May 2006

## **A MESSAGE TO FAMILIES FROM THE I MEF (REAR) COMMANDING OFFICER**

A question that comes up with every deployment is “When is my Marine/Sailor coming home?” With a few exceptions, this will be a twelve to fourteen month deployment for the Marines and Sailors of I MEF Command Element and I MEF Headquarters Group. Those exceptions include, but are not limited to, a small number of teams that were originally scheduled for seven month deployments. It also includes individuals who must return because they are coming up on the end of their obligated service, retiring, or in receipt of orders. However, there are no guarantees since I MEF’s mission takes precedence. Your best source of information is your Marine or sailor, since all personnel who deployed forward know approximately when they will redeploy home. If they don’t, they should ask their SNCOIC or OIC.

Because of the need to conduct a carefully planned and executed phased handover of responsibility and transfer of authority with the unit replacing I MEF, redeployment will occur over a period of approximately two months. The scheduling of returning flights adds a little more uncertainty to this process. Three months prior to scheduled redeployment, Strategic Airlift planners are given a flight window of approximately one week to move a designated group of individuals. The flight a Marine or Sailor will return on is generally not known until one to two weeks before movement, even then it can change by a couple of days.

Col Kauer

## **GREETINGS TO ALL FROM CAMP FALLUJAH,**

As the month of May approaches, many of your Marines and Sailors enter their 3rd month of duty in Iraq. Reaching the 25% complete mark of the deployment serves as a point of motivation for many of the Marines and Sailors. The time is flying past, as we are all keeping busy with a large workload to complete. Before you know it, we will be planning a Birthday Ball celebration. We can tell summer is around the corner, as temperatures are rising into the 90’s. I MHG continues to make improvements to the camp, force protection, safety, and raising quality of life for all tenets. All personnel remain focused on mission accomplishment throughout the various billets they fill in support of I MEF (FWD) and camps throughout the Area of Operations. They continue to perform superbly despite the hardships of being away from their families. We would like to welcome the new Force Protection Guard Force. They have conducted their relief in place with the outgoing unit and are adjusting well.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Corporal Salem Bachar, I MEF G-2, who made the ultimate sacrifice in Karmah, Iraq, on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The MHG paid honor to Cpl Bachar on 17 April at a memorial service held at the Chapel of Hope at Camp Fallujah. The appropriate reverence and honor was bestowed upon this great American who gave so much to his country and Corps.

As always, please keep your Key Volunteer updated on any changes in contact information, whether it be your address, phone number, or e-mail address. Also remind your active duty spouse to update their personal information if their family back in Southern California relocates. I want to make sure you continue to receive this newsletter and updates about your Marine/Sailor and I MHG.

Thank you for your support, prayers and sacrifices.

Semper Fidelis  
LtCol. T.W. Ward  
Commanding Officer  
MHG (FWD)

### **GREETING FROM THE SGT MAJOR (FWD)**

Hello to all families and friends of the I MHG. We too are celebrating Easter here in Camp Fallujah, Iraq. Religious services were held with fine turnouts by all. Many thanks to our dedicated Chaplain Corps who continue to provide their wisdom and support to all. Another highlight of the day was the awesome Easter dinner at our dining facility. It was a full course dinner complete with shrimp cocktail, pecan pies, and ice cream.

All units and sections have adapted well to the daily demands of operating in this dangerous environment. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to tell you the amount of work which has been accomplished over the past months. Much of the credit goes to our NCOs. They continue to lead from the front, providing their Marines and Sailors sound guidance and their own expertise. The NCOs set the pace and get the job done.

As always, throughout the Marine Corps the first day of the month means we'll be promoting Marines. Putting on another rocker or chevron is a memorable event. 1 April promotions were earned by: MSgt Slattery G-5, GySgt Maziarz G-3, SSgt Heystek G-1, SSgt Scott G-10 Team 1/1, Sgt Woods S-6, Sgt Rangel G-1, Cpl Young S-4/Field Mess, LCpl Salas S-4, LCpl Jones G-1, LCpl Hicks PSD Staff Sec, LCpl Himan G-4, and PFC Forinash G-4.

Congratulations to all these Marines and to their families.

Your Marines and Sailors are all doing magnificent things on a daily basis. I am truly honored to be amongst such dedicated men and women and I thank all of you for your continued support and sacrifices.

Semper Fidelis

Sgt Maj O'Connell





## MESSAGE FROM THE G-4 (FWD) SHOP

Dear G-4 family,

The G-4 remains focused on our mission of supporting the operating forces of I MEF (FWD) as they operate in unison with our Iraqi counterparts throughout the Al Ambar Province, an area in western Iraq, comparable in size to Wyoming. It is arduous work, but the Marines and Sailors are up to the challenge. We were recently visited by a film crew from FOX News that broadcasted daily from Camp Fallujah. The report gave some insights as to our daily lives and how we are living. The Marines and Sailors of the G-4 are well established in their daily routines. This adds some normalcy to our deployment which helps pass the time.

MGySgt Terhune has taken the reins as the I MEF (FWD) log chief. He joins us from the USS Peleliu where he served as Senior Combat Cargo Assistant. MGySgt Johnson, who transferred to us from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, has assumed the duties of food services chief, which is not an easy task in this environment. Welcome aboard to both MGuns.

Spring has officially arrived here at Camp Fallujah. We have undertaken a massive cleanup throughout our workspaces, similar to the traditional spring cleaning your home receives. Files that are several years old are going into the burn barrel and unneeded equipment has been disposed of. The layers of dust have been moved, and our air conditioning units have all been serviced and readied for the upcoming hot summer months. Our resident birds are building nests all around the base to include inside our workspaces. Even yard work is being accomplished by a local work crew that is cutting the "grass" with hand clippers. The winter chill has faded, replaced by daily temperatures in the high 90's. It is only a matter of time until we push over the 100 degree mark for the summer.

Finally, we could not be successful in our mission if not for the support we receive from all of you watching over the home front. You are an integral part of the G-4 team, and the sacrifices you've made have not gone unnoticed. Please remember to keep your KV representative abreast of any changes to your address or phone numbers. This is vital information in keeping the lines of communication open.

Semper Fi,  
Col Scott Dalke

**ATTN: I-MEF Headquarters Group and  
Command Element Families:**  
You may go to the I-MEF (Forward)  
website at: <http://www.imef-fwd.usmc.mil/imef/imef-public.nsf/sites/imeffwd?OpenDocument>



SSgt Mendez, G-4, reenlists on 1 April 2006



Col Dalke, G-4 (FWD), promotes LtCol Hall

## MESSAGE FROM THE G-10 (FWD) SHOP

Dear G-10 and Advisor Spouses,  
Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for staying abreast of what is happening in Iraq. More importantly, I want to thank you for the continued support that you give your husbands and the rest of our Marines/Sailors currently serving over here with I MEF FWD.

We continue to make significant progress with the Iraqi Army. Those of you whose husband's are serving on MTTs (military transition teams) should be extremely proud of the work that is being accomplished. In most cases, Iraqi Army units are conducting operations alongside US/Coalition units. This is happening across the board, which is a tribute to the superb training and advice given the Iraqis by our MTTs. The police effort continues to gain traction. So, our PTTs (police transition teams) have their hands full helping their Iraqi counterparts obtain more police officers, receive the necessary equipment, and establish credibility with the local community.

On the borders, our BTTs (border transition teams) continue to teach, coach, and mentor Iraqi Border Defense Forces as to how to protect Iraq from foreign

fighters. Given the extreme distances from civilization, our BTTs do marvelous work under the most difficult conditions.

In all cases, our Marines have formed strong bonds with their Iraqi counterparts, who are grateful for the assistance that we provide them in their quest to become self-sufficient in providing for their own security.

I am privileged to work around so many superb professionals, and I can assure you that your husband's are helping to win the war in a big way. Again, thank you for what you do back in America—for taking care of your families and for supporting everyone who is forward in uniform.

All the best,  
Colonel Greenwood

### **MESSAGE FROM THE G-5 (FWD) SHOP**

Here we are pictured at right (except for Maj Wallace who is in Baghdad) ,at arguably the nicest spot aboard Camp Fallujah, following MSgt Slattery's promotion. Our congratulations go out to MSgt Slattery (standing, second from the left) who was officially promoted on 1 April! A well deserved promotion to one of our key members of our Force Deployment team. He along with the rest of the Force Deployment team (Sgt Greulich, Sgt Soto, Cpl Ponce, Cpl Brady, Cpl Hartneck and LCpl Dutra), worked very hard prior to and during our deployment to ensure smooth movement of the Marines, sailors and civilians of I MEF into Iraq. I can't say enough about the great work of the entire Force Deployment team under Maj Webb's leadership. Both Maj Webb and MSgt Slattery have returned temporarily to Camp Pendleton for eight weeks to attend two force deployment conferences, and will return to us here in Iraq by the end of May. These two conferences are important to the timely redeployment and deployment of personnel both in and out of Iraq. Leadership of the Force Deployment team now rest squarely on the able shoulders of Sgt Soto. Sgt Soto has quite a challenge ahead, and I'm confident she is up to the task.

Our planners (LtCol Boggs, LtCol Erdmann, LtCol Flynn, LtCol Trapp and Maj Wallace) continue to conduct future planning and liaison duties in support of Multi-National Force West and Multi-National Corps Iraq. LtCol Boggs is looking forward to returning to Camp Pendleton in May to assume command of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines, an artillery battalion at Camp Pendleton. LtCol Erdmann is now our only civil military operations planner in the G-5. This change is due to the decision to move the three planners previously under his command to the Civil Affairs Group Commander. This was a logical move that will better synchronize operations and allow LtCol Erdmann to better focus his efforts on future civil affairs planning. LtCol Trapp continues to stay engaged with the governance, election, detainee release, and Provincial Reconstruction Team planning. Maj Wallace is serving his final 30 days as our

liaison officer to our higher headquarters in Baghdad, and will come back to us at Camp Fallujah in May. He, along with all the planners in the G-5, have performed beyond expectation and have established themselves as the "go to" planners in I MEF (Forward).

Please continue to keep your Marine motivated by remaining in contact via letters, cards, emails, and care packages.

Respectfully,  
Colonel Hocking



### **MESSAGE FROM MHG SUPPLY (FWD) SHOP**

Throughout the month of March, the Marines of MHG Supply have been extremely busy. During this month the warehouse Marines (MOS-3051) issued over 800 sets of side sapi plates, 700 sets of E-Sapi's, and inventoried over 70 ISO containers. During this time, warehouse Marines also established an issue point in order to decrease customer wait times. This serves as a "one stop shop" for many supply requisitions. The Office Marines are focusing their time on ensuring that supply records were accurate, making certain that all requisitions had a valid status. They also introduced the command to the Warfighter Open Purchase Request Router (WOPRR) program. Throughout the month, the Supply Office Marines ordered and receipted more than \$46 million in assets. The supply shop ended the month of March by welcoming a small detachment of supply Marines from CLB Marines to run the Transition Team Account. Throughout the coming months these Marines will procure, issue, and track assets that will assist in making the Transition Teams throughout the AO successful in their assigned missions.

### **MESSAGE FROM THE G-6 (FWD) SHOP**

Families and Friends,

The Marines of the First Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) G6 continue to excel across the board. Their



efforts, skill, and dedication over the past three months have kept the Commander and our subordinate units talking, exchanging data, and supporting a wide range of operational missions. Across the board they are executing demanding technical tasks. These tasks range from supporting video teleconferencing across the theater to developing and monitoring the implementation of detailed plans to expand the capacity and quality of communications. All of these services support their fellow Marines.

The professional abilities and personal dedication displayed by each and every Marine in the G6 is truly amazing and you should be incredibly proud of their efforts! An honorable mention this month goes to Corporal Lane who received a letter of appreciation from the MEF's Staff Judge Advocate for his exceptional efforts in configuring and supporting the data networking needs of our legal support team. Gunnery Sergeant Bartlett, one of our data networking chiefs recommitted himself to the Marine Corps and our team by reenlisting. Spirits across the section continue to remain high.

Despite the long hours and demanding work schedule, we are all finding some time during the day to PT and enhance our professional skills! Each and every Marine in the section understands that this mission can be dangerous, and I want to ensure you that we are doing all we can to stay sharp and look out for one another. This is a great team, and each and every Marine is not only a vital position player, but a crucial piece in the continued readiness of the MEF!

I would ask that you continue to think of us, keep those letters and packages coming, and rest assured that your Marine is part of the finest communications section ever put together! You have every right to be proud of the task already accomplished!

I know that the team at home supports us fully. I want to remind each of you that both the Key Volunteer Network and my staff, both here and at Camp Pendleton, are available to assist you in any way we can.

Semper Fi,  
Colonel Bruno  
I MEF (FWD) G-6



**Col Bruno reenlists GySgt Bartlett at Camp Fallujah**

**\*\*EMERGENCY CHILD CARE\*\***

For genuine emergencies only and must be generated by calling PMO at 760.725.3888. Not all emergency childcare is free of charge. The emergency child care is for up to 24 hours until a legal guardian or family member can pick up the child/children. Plan ahead! Have a Family Care Plan and a support network in place to cover any emergencies that might arise. For non-emergency child care, contact Child Care Resource Referral at 760.725.9723.



**SSgt Eyssallene, G-1, reenlists with help of Col Barch on 24 March 2006**



**LtCol Ward, Commanding Officer I MHG (FWD)  
and SgtMaj O'Connell, Camp Fallujah, Iraq**



**SSgt Lambert, Truck Co, reenlists with help of  
CWO Gilman on 1 April 2006**



**MSgt Lopez, G-3, reenlists on 24 March 2006**

## **ATTENTION MILITARY FAMILIES**

### **CITY OF OCEANSIDE**

### **OPERATION APPRECIATION**

### **You Are Invited!**

**All Active Duty Service Members and Their Families**

**Saturday, May 20, 2006**

**Oceanside Pier Amphitheater and Beach  
Community Center  
1100-1600**

**Food & Entertainment**

**Special Children's Area Opens at 0930**

**All **FREE** of charge for active duty and their dependents. Military or dependents ID required.**

### **CUT AND KEEP**

- **I MEF Command Message 866-676-0662**
- **I MHG Command Duty Officer 760-763-2963**
- **MCB CP Staff Duty Chaplain 760-561-5617/5618**
- **I MHG Chaplain 760-725-6960 cell 760-390-3979**
- **I MHG Key Volunteer V-mail 760-763-4785**
- **Family Readiness Officer (FRO) 760-763-2692**
- **American Red Cross 1-800-951-5600**
- **MCCS One Source (760) 763-2518**  
[www.mccsonesource.com](http://www.mccsonesource.com)
- **Emergency Child Care 760-725-3888/0845**
- **Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton (24 hrs) 760-725-6877**
- **Birth of child 800-951-5600**
- **DEERS 760-725-2442**
- **No ID/Lost ID 760-725-2768**
- **If You Need Assistance or Want More Information on the Key Volunteer Network, Please Call the Family Readiness Office at 760.763.4785.**